Delta Vision

First staff draft strategic plan

Processes, structure, content

Adapted from presentation to BRTF June 26

July 2008

Information: http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/

Comments to: dv_context@calwater.ca.gov

Processes going forward

- Focus energies on completing an effective strategic plan – “one text”
- Enlist contributions of many to develop an effective strategic plan
- Contributions of suggested improvements by web site comment line, email, hard copy, panels at TF meetings, public comment period
- Proposed facilitated regional sessions on draft SP in August and early September
- “Real time” science assessment of drafts
- Additional consultant work
- Stakeholder assessments and refinements to drafts
- Additional requests to departments probable
- Task Force recommendation October 2008; Delta Vision Committee recommendation December 2008

Final products likely to include:

1. Strategic plan with:
   - Goals based on vision
   - Coherent strategies
   - Performance indicators for progress and targets for near and longer term
   - Action items for executive or legislative branches ("check lists")
2. Near term action recommendations (as in the vision)
3. "Programmatic" elements relevant to proposed California Delta Ecosystem and Water Plan

TF meetings through October

public comment and direction to staff at each meeting

June 26-27: presentation of first staff draft; panels from DPC and stakeholders

July 17-18: modestly revised draft; panels of local officials, business representatives, relevant state and federal departments – “comfort” check by TF

August 21-22: revised draft; panels of stakeholders; regional sessions inputs; “OK to proceed” check by TF

September 18-19: draft responsive to TF direction; limited panels; preliminary recommendation

October 16-17: draft responsive to TF direction; very limited panels; final recommendation

Structure of the first staff draft

1. Cover page with invitation to comment
2. Short introduction (pps 1-2)
3. Summaries of each area (pps 3-12)
   - Goals
   - Performance measures and scheduled targets
   - Strategies
   - Actions
4. “Chapter” for each area (figures at end):
   - Governance and finance (pps 13-26)
   - Ecosystem (pps 27-40)
   - Water (pps 41-63)
   - Delta as place (pps 64-78)

This introduction to first staff draft

- Introduce each of the four areas
- Put strategies up on the screen (three for each of the four areas)
- Refer to pages in the staff draft
- Illustrate a few key features of proposals
- Begin to identify issues to be addressed, both large and small (staff captured issues and suggestions at Task Force meeting)

Strategies for governance and finance (page 3)

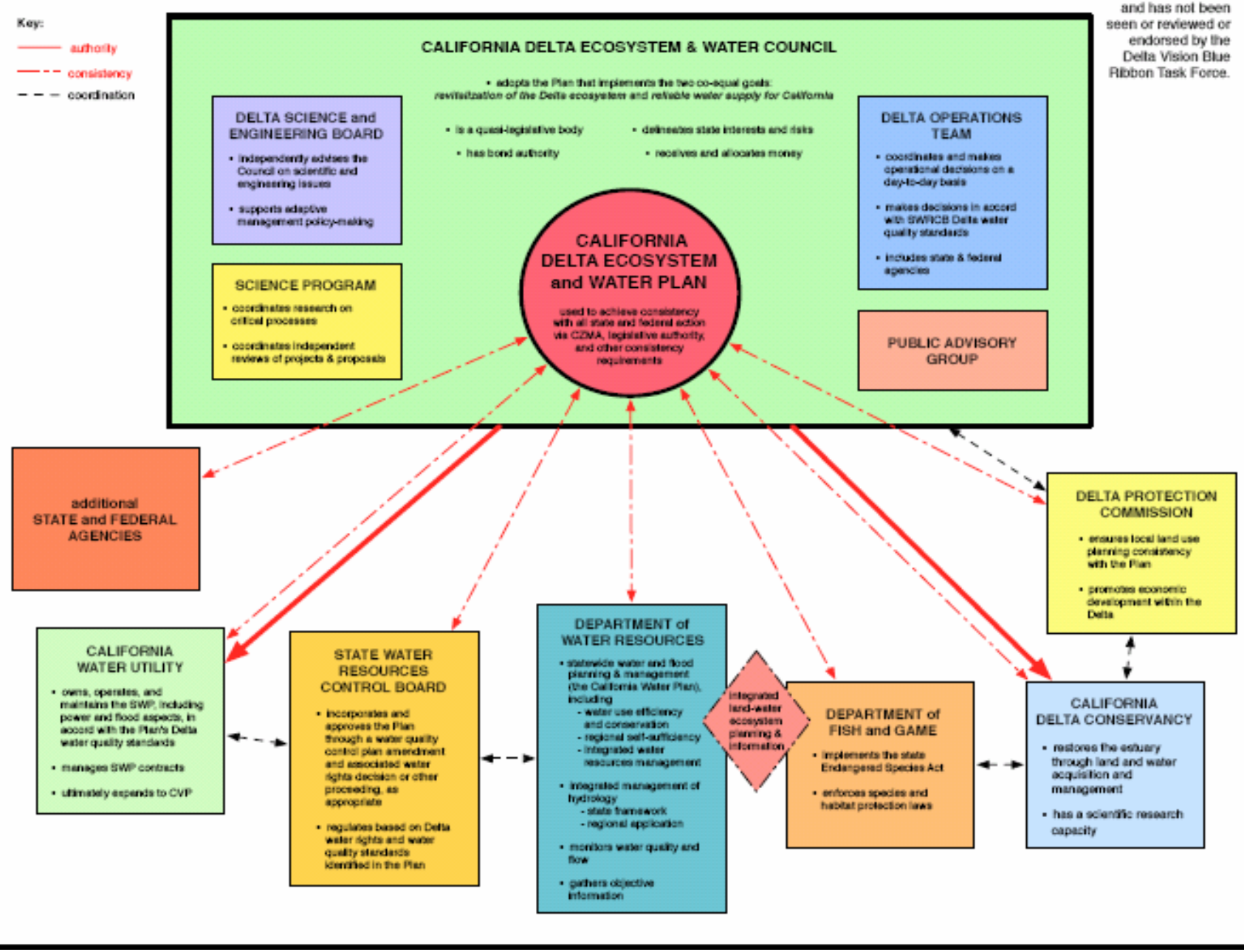
1. Create a multi-part governance structure, with a California Delta Ecosystem and Water Council, a strengthened Delta Protection Commission, a Delta Conservancy, and a Delta Science and Engineering Board. The Council develops and adopts the California Delta Ecosystem and Water Plan (CDEW Plan) and has ongoing responsibility for its implementation. The CDEW Plan incorporates all plans developed under species protection laws.
2. Ensure consistency of action among existing state, federal and local entities by creating the CDEW Plan, clarifying the roles of existing agencies in the Delta, and making full use of existing laws and constitutional principles governing water.
3. Finance the activities called for in the CDEW Plan by creating effective and transparent revenue-generation mechanisms that reflect the true value of resources and are linked to value-creation for beneficiaries and future generations of Californians.

Figure 1

First Staff Draft Governance Structure

The authorities of state and federal agencies described in this figure are limited to Delta Vision-related activities.

This diagram is a draft work product of Delta Vision staff and has not been seen or reviewed or endorsed by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.



Issues to address

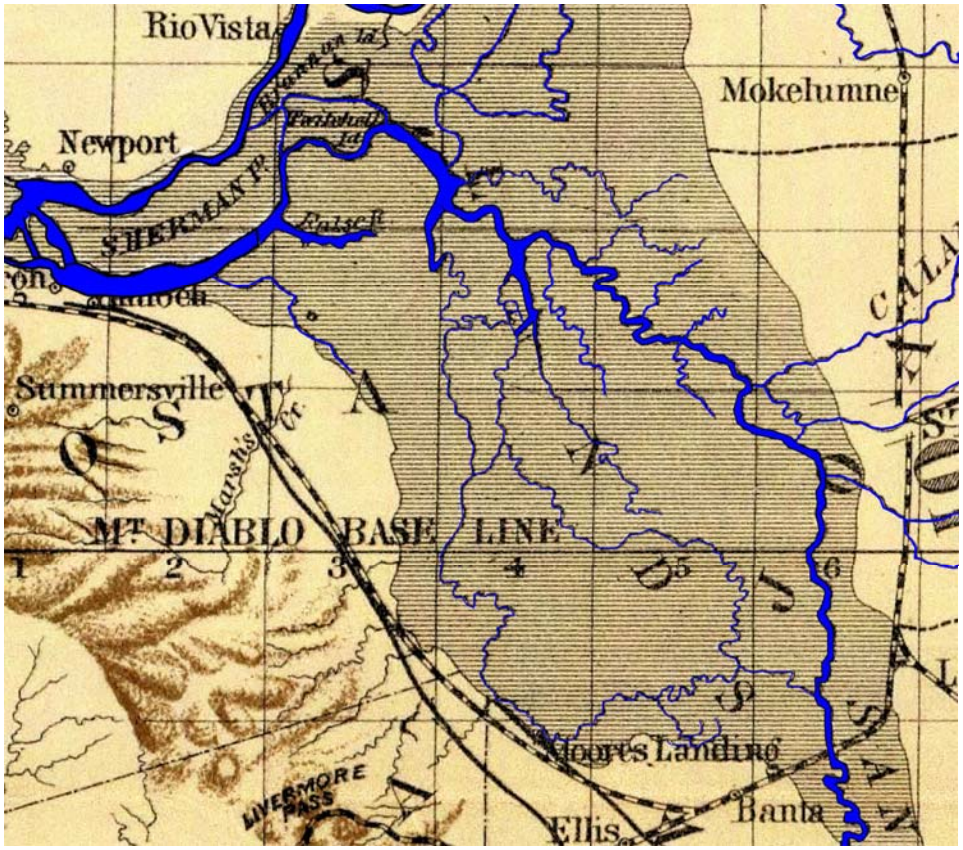
- Success dependent on new institutions and actors
- How quickly can these new entities be created? The plan completed?
- Without incentives and powers to achieve consistency of action, this design fails so those are critical
- Developing a robust design for several decades is challenging
- The financing proposals are incomplete
- Performance measures and targets need development
- The language on DPC at Action 1.2 is misleading

Strategies for ecosystem

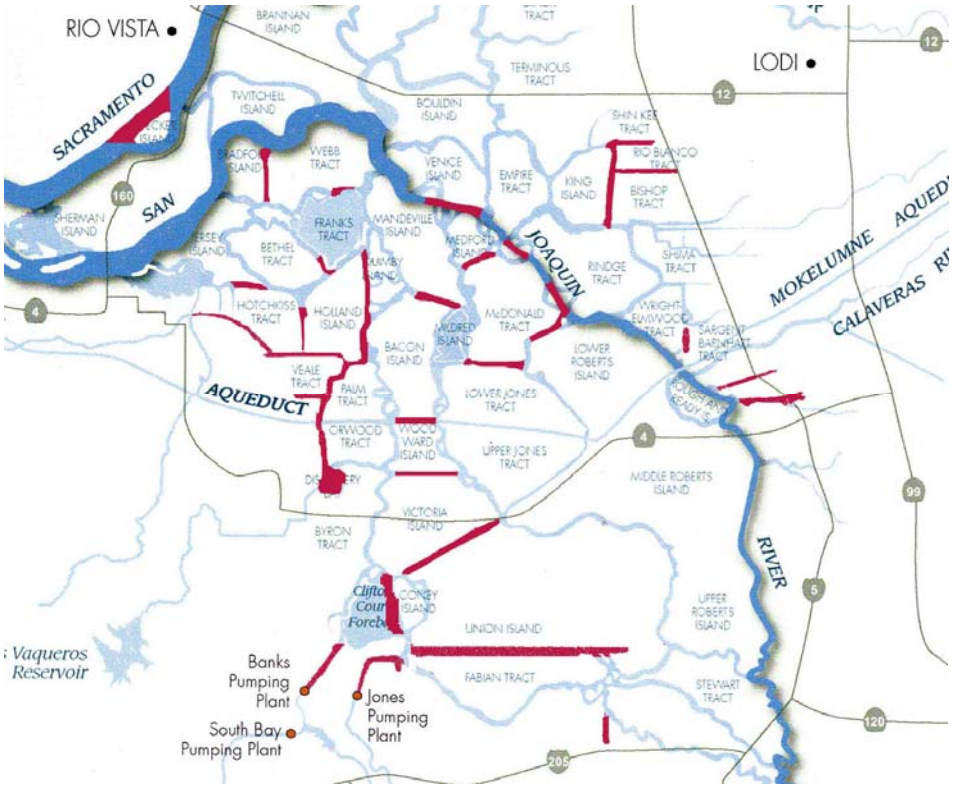
(page 5)

4. Restore physical habitats in multiple large, connected complexes of tidal marshes, floodplains, shallow open water, seasonal wetlands, and adjacent grasslands that support native and desirable non-native species, and that increase the land-water interfaces characteristic of the historic Delta and other effective estuaries.
5. Restore appropriate water flows and other ecosystem processes throughout all Delta habitat types.
6. Reduce or remove stressors to the Delta ecosystem, including invasive species, contaminants, and entrainment.

Figure 3. Natural branching versus man-made "cross-cuts" in south Delta channels.



Natural branching channels in the Delta in 1873



Channels in red are the man-made "cross-cuts" in the Delta of today (data from DWR Delta Atlas*)*

Issues to address (1 of 2)

- Integration with other ecosystem-focused planning processes (conceptually, in implementation, legally) and ESA and public health compliance
- Over what time periods to achieve the desired changes in land-water interfaces and corridors
- Assessment and timing of impacts on Delta land use, socio-economics and agriculture
- How to ensure desired water flows in the amount, quality, timing, and location needed

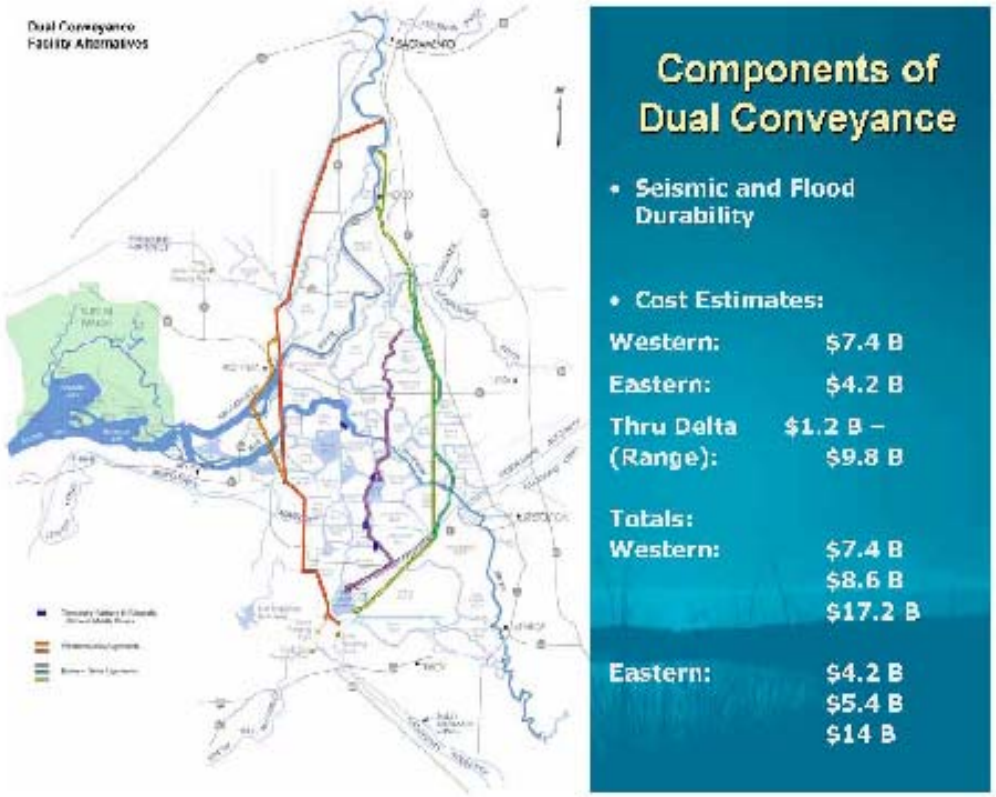
Issues to address (2 of 2)

- Integration with conveyance and water operations changes in the near- and long-term
- Addressing uncertainties e.g., inadequate knowledge, climate change, sea level rise, invasive species
- A few modifications to performance targets on page 7
- Language on migratory corridors, Action 4.5, not the latest; to be updated

Strategies for water

7. Maximize regional water self-sufficiency throughout California by a wide range of supply augmentation and demand management techniques.
8. Integrate and strengthen management of all aspects of the water cycle, including surface flows, groundwater, flood control, infiltration, and water quality.
9. Create a wet-period diversion, conveyance and storage system to the greatest feasible extent to minimize ecosystem stress and prepare for climate change.

Figure 6. Possible dual conveyance alignments and cost estimates
(Image and data from California Department of Water Resources)



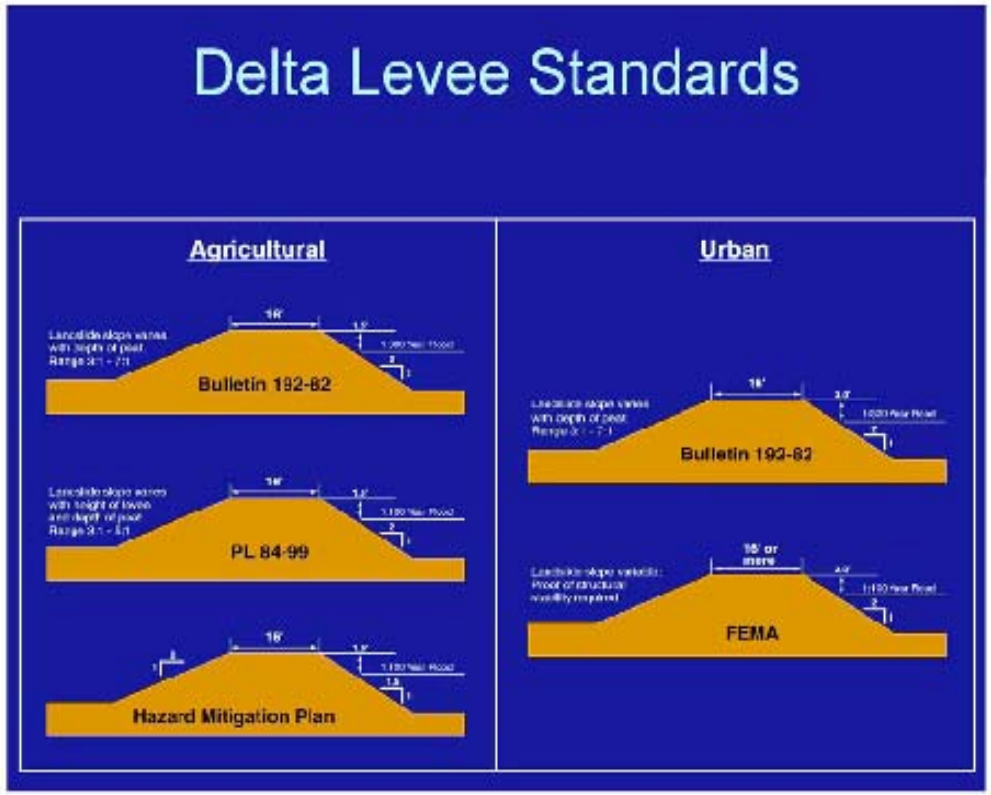
Issues to address

- Implementing a wet period diversion system requires large changes at many levels
- Enhanced regional self-sufficiency and integrated management of water cycle requires new state roles and enhanced regional capabilities
- Performance targets shown on page 10 need correction
- Language on Action 8.5 (contaminants) not the latest/approved and needs to be corrected

Strategies for Delta as place

10. Increase recognition of the Delta as a place, and enhance tourism and recreation, by creating a National Heritage Area and a multi-unit State Recreation Area, and by facilitating new investments in “gateway” locations near major cities and highways.
11. Enhance the Delta as a place by creating multi-purpose river corridors on each major river system entering the Delta, and by creating Special Area Management Plans for selected areas.
12. Improve the Delta’s flood protection and levee system by improving upstream flood management, designing and financing levee types to protect specific land uses and services, and conducting comprehensive emergency management planning and preparation.

Figure 8. Cross-sections of typical levee designs in common use in the Delta.
Not exhaustive of existing or potential levee designs.



Issues to address

- Balancing drive to maintain current uses with proposed strategies which require change over time, while addressing risks of change from other factors
- Levee-land use recommendations incomplete